

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8-13, and 15-29 are pending in the present application. Claim 14 has been canceled by this amendment. Claims 1, 3, 8-10, and 12 have been amended. Claims 1, 10, 16, and 17 are independent claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with thanks that claims 16-29 are allowed.

Further, it is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 13 and 14 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

In this rejection, the Examiner asserts that it is unclear whether the base assembly modules recited in claims 8 and 9 are in addition to the base assembly module in claim 1. Without conceding the appropriateness of this rejection, Applicants have amended claims 8 and 9 so that it is more clear that these claims refer to “the base assembly module that electrically connects the one or more solid state light sources to the power source” of claim 1.

In view of the aforementioned, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-12, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,994,459 to Worsdell et al. (hereafter “Worsdell”). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

In the Office Action at page 3, the Examiner asserts,

...applicant has not disclosed any structural limitation with regards to the modular features of each modular device [*sic*] thus the term “modular” is considered a matter of intended use.

Applicants do not concede that it is proper for the Examiner to interpret the term “modular,” as used in the claims, as a matter of intended use. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims to recite even more structure relating to the modularity of the claimed modular components.

Specifically, independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite, “a fastening mechanism configured to fasten the modular components together, the fastening mechanism being configured for repeated fastening and unfastening to facilitate the modularity of the modular components.” It is respectfully submitted that Worsdell fails to teach or suggest this feature.

Although Worsdell discloses a fastener 4, Worsdell teaches that this fastener merely attaches the entire, integrated navigation light assembly 1 to the end of a wing (col. 8, lines 8-15). There is no teaching or suggestion that this fastener is used for fastening together individual elements in Worsdell’s navigation light assembly. Applicants respectfully submit that the elements in Worsdell, which are relied upon by the Examiner for the claimed modular components, are designed for permanent attachment to the navigation light assembly.

In view of the aforementioned, it is respectfully submitted that Worsdell fails to disclose each and every feature recited in claims 1 and 10. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that

independent claims 1 and 10 are in condition for allowance, and claims 3-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 15 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

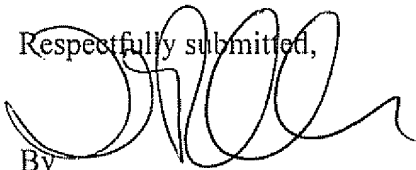
In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance in the present application.

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,


By _____

D. Richard Anderson
Registration No.: 40,439
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant